

Reservation after disinvestment in PSUs

†391. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state: the steps being taken to sustain reservation in public sector after making more than 50 per cent disinvestment in public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): The Government is committed to protect the interest of the workers as mentioned by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech for the year 2000-2001. With this in view, in the cases of disinvestment involving transfer of management control, appropriate provisions are made in the share-purchase agreement and the shareholders agreement with the strategic partner. Typically the agreements include a recital stating that the strategic partner recognise that the Government in relation to its employment policies follows certain principles for the benefit of the members of the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged sections of the society and that the strategic partner shall use its best efforts to cause the Company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons. Further, in the event of any reduction in the strength of the employees of the Company, the strategic partner shall use its best efforts to ensure that the physically handicapped persons are retrenched at the end.

News-item captioned "Disinvestment will end reservation"

392. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Disinvestment will end reservation", which appeared in the Times of India (Kolkata Edition), dated 16th January 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any clause about job reservation is being incorporated in the disinvestment/strategic alliance bids where Government's share is being reduced below 50 per cent;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.